

The Debt Question.

The people's representatives are greatly exercised about the public debt. The other side of that present taxation does not meet the demands upon the State; and how to get along with an annual deficit which is rapidly increasing the public obligations, and without increasing taxation, is the question.

From the rumors current we learn that Senator Pass's proposition to borrow fifteen millions of dollars from the Federal Government, and with that to compromise with creditors by paying off the debt at fifty cents in the dollar, is favored by a respectable number of members. We consider the proposition utopian, and cannot believe that the Legislature will agree to it.

First. The Federal Government will never make such a loan. Were it to do so, the act would be the signal for a general rush of the States upon the Federal Treasury for loans, which, once made, would probably, many of them, never be repaid. Certainly the unfortunate States run by Radical rule would never pay a cent.

Secondly. If the central government loaned the fifteen millions, we are sure that the Virginia bondholders would settle at fifty cents in the dollar? Could we make them? Could we cancel the coupons upon the bonds issued under the funding act without paying them? Indeed, would not the possession of fifteen millions of good money by Virginia tighten the screws of the bondholders and make them less willing than now to compromise?

It would certainly be a humiliation of Virginia to bring her to the footstool of Federal power to beg help. If her prayer stood any probability of being heard there might be that much excuse for putting it up. But success is not the reward for that supplication.

We believe that there is no escape. The situation must be met fairly. The making a foot-ball of the funding act and running after and kicking it is probably unwittingly carrying gentlemen towards the precipice of repudiation. It would be wiser to look upon that as a thing past and irremediable. We were never an advocate of it; but we do not consider it an act that is deplorable except in so far as it funded accrued interest to bear interest. If we were entitled to any sort of relief at the hands of the creditor, more than any other it was to remission of the interest accrued during the war; but the people, through their representatives, assumed and assumed that interest, and we cannot say what we are now to do about it. Certainly so far as the bonds under the funding act are concerned there is no remedy save in some agreement between the State and her creditors—an agreement which would show that the creditors had rights which the State acknowledged and which she could not set aside without their consent. Is this probable?

Again, what are we going to do about it? Virginia cannot afford to repudiate. To look back and lament over accomplished facts can in no wise improve our present condition nor throw light upon the future. In our opinion, the august body representing the people, and guarding alike the interests and honor of the State, will best perform its high functions by meeting the condition of the State fairly and legislating for her in good faith.

We would add that there could be nothing more futile or fruitless than the suggestion of Mr. Rogers that the public difficulties could be remedied by a State convention.

Prosperation—Which? The hue-and-dry set up by the Government about the alleged proscription measures of some of the southern communities is the most contemptible device. It is exactly that of the thief who seeks to escape by joining the throng that cries "Stop thief!"

The Government of this country is thoroughly and ruthlessly proscriptive. None but radicals are appointed to office by it, and the officer who dares to question the wisdom of Republican measures or the fairness and gentleness of the President is pitched head and heels out of the comforts and perquisites of Federal patronage. Have we not seen Platt filling the navy-yard at Portsmouth with incompetent negroes and whites under the disguise of being employed as mechanics and laborers, and have we not seen Fort Monroe deluged with similar cattle nor election-time that they might swarm forth on election-day to fasten PLATT upon the intelligent whites of this district against their representative, when they despised him? See how these employes were discharged after the liberal enjoyment of Government per diem, and prog, and grog, and after the performance of their service work.

Look at every Government yard and post, where any pretext could be trumped up for the calling in of the motley crowd of Radical voters to be fed until they vomited the Radical ticket. Look at them from Maine to the Rio Grande. Such has been the extent of this abuse that army and navy officers have been vehement in the expression of their disgust at the annual crowding upon them of sham-fellow incompetents persons to do work for which they were not fit, and to be kept, as it were, in idleness, merely to be voted like dogs at the polls for the party that has given them something to eat.

And this is the party that cries out bitterly against proscription—the refusal of a private citizen to employ a person who is not only politically opposed to him, but is endeavoring to elect men and establish measures which will be the ruin of the dearest interests of the community in which he lives! The harlot preaching up virtue—the wolf bawling bloodshed.

This hypocrisy—this outcry of SHERIDAN, GRANT & Co. against the people of the South—is characteristic of the Government under which we live. The people of Shreveport and Arkansas are guilty of nothing new. It is notorious and undeniable that the mill operatives of New England were always (with few exceptions) voted by their employers—i. e., they voted as their employers wanted them to vote, or they had to seek employment elsewhere. Dr. AYER, who has physically the South so fearfully, and who is now possessed with a Radical bigotry that all the "cherry pectoral" he ever made could not expel from his system, declared before the war that his employees always voted as he did.

But what if the use of citation. The whole Union knows how disingenuous it is in GRANT and SHERIDAN to be denouncing what is so notoriously done by the Government, and especially by manufacturers at the North. It is a part of the deliberate and malicious policy to wrong the southern people and fire the public mind at the North

against them: a device meriting universal execration for its hypocrisy and for its deliberate dishonesty and malignity.

Relief to Louisiana.

If Congress does nothing General Grant will continue to rule the State of Louisiana for the remainder of his term. It is idle to speak of the KALLOO government. That cannot stand a day after the withdrawal of the Federal troops. It is therefore a mere creature of the Federal Government. GRANT is the Governor of Louisiana.

A new election under a fair law might give relief, and the friends of order and local rights should favor such a law. Why should they not? A government elected and inaugurated under a law of Congress could not be interfered with by GRANT. But in the absence of such government the present abomination must continue unquestionably for two years. Persons speak of recalling the troops from Louisiana. Who will do that? Will GRANT? Not he, although, knowing that the Senate will admit PINCKNEY, he says he will withdraw the troops if PINCKNEY is not admitted. Will Congress? The Republican party would not dare to commit an act so offensive to GRANT. It cannot be done. The troops are there, and will stay.

Those who postpone action in the hope that the troops will be withdrawn rest upon the most delusive hopes. There is a chance of passing a bill for a new election, and of its being approved by the President—more because he has referred the matter to Congress, and apprehends that the people would not sustain a veto of such a bill, than because he desires it. If such a bill fails it will injure those who might pass it and refuse to do so more than others.

We repeat that order and good government in Louisiana must be disastrous to Radicalism and beneficial to the friends of free government. Let those who may have it in their power to do this good remember that impracticability forced upon the South negro suffrage—the source of all our woes. By a combination between Democrats and Liberals that terrible evil might have been prevented. Prevented when it had succeeded, it might have been altogether defeated or left to a probation that would afford time for a thorough and calm consideration of the matter. That might have saved us from a thousand woes.

If experience may not teach us wisdom what is it worth? We repeat that order and good government in Louisiana must be disastrous to Radicalism and beneficial to the friends of free government. Let those who may have it in their power to do this good remember that impracticability forced upon the South negro suffrage—the source of all our woes.

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General Assembly of Virginia.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 1875.

SENATE.

Prayer by Rev. Thomas L. Preston, of the First Presbyterian church.

FROM THE AUDITOR.

The President laid before the Senate a communication from the Auditor of Public Accounts in response to a resolution calling for a statement of the number of merchants' licenses issued during the year 1874.

On motion of Mr. GRANT, the communication was laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS.

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for the admission of Pinchback without awaiting the formality of any further action in the case by the Committee on Privileges and Elections. This was somewhat of a surprise to the Democratic side of the chamber, for Governor Morton's resolution referred back Pinchback's credentials to the Committee on Privileges and Elections.

Pinchback's new credentials have not yet been presented. This move on the part of Mr. Morton will reopen the whole Louisiana debate. It has not yet transpired whether he has the consent of the majority to force the thing through by "sitting it out."

THE VICKSBURG OUTRAGE.

Mr. O'Brien, in a resolution offered in the House today, called attention to the outrage in a State and this time with the committee of investigation had just returned. Mr. Harburt, a member of that committee, objected to the President giving the requested information, although the words "incompetent" were inserted. The public indignation is considered by many as far more atrocious than the interference with the organization of the Louisiana Legislature because the latter was an interference with the courts of justice. Nevertheless, the objection came from a gentleman who, with Mr. O'Brien, had been investigating the outrage in the very city in which it occurred.

The truth is, the Republican members of this Vicksburg committee seem to be moving with remarkable swiftness, and there has not been a meeting since the committee returned. The excuse of the chairman, Mr. Conger, is that the testimony was not yet received. He was very willing, however, to meet, and to continue the investigation if he could have secret sessions, but this was objected to. Mr. Spear, the other Democratic member of the committee, returned to Washington today.

(Special to the Baltimore American.)

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE AND THE WAR RECORD.

WASHINGTON, January 20.—The unpopularity that prevails in our relations with Spain has been heightened by the special message of the President calling attention to the condition of our coast fortifications and the need of additional armament. The Committee on Foreign Affairs have called a special meeting for to-morrow in order to consider the message.

Members of the committee remarked that it was unfortunately true that our coast defenses were not in a condition to withstand the heavy guns that would be brought against them in case of war, but they are not prepared at a time when additional taxation is necessary to meet current expenses to vote large appropriations for new armament until some definite plan is shown. The last advice from Spain are to the effect that matters are progressing towards the amicable settlement of the Virginian case, except with regard to the vessel itself. The indemnity to be paid by Spain will be the same as paid to the United States for the capture of the vessel.

It seems that the Virginian was condemned in a prize court, and an award made before she was surrendered to the United States. Attorney-General Williams subsequently decided that the United States had no jurisdiction over the vessel, and she was returned to Spain. The value of the vessel for the prize was the officers and crew of the Tornado by the Cuban courts. It is stated that there is a strong feeling against this country at Madrid, and the fact that a war in which the possession of Cuba was at stake, and that the Virginian was captured by the Cuban forces, is a matter of great concern to the United States.

House bill providing for the submission to the people of the counties of the Commonwealth the question of imposing a tax on dogs was reported unfavorably.

By Mr. HOLBROOK: Bill to incorporate the Virginia Land and Immigration Society.

By Mr. KOSKOFF: Bill requiring assessors to list deaf and dumb and blind children in all parts of the State, &c.

By Mr. FRANKLIN: Bill to amend the charter of Lynchburg so as to set apart one per centum of the annual resources of the city as a sinking fund.

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